

Washington, D.C. 20505

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Abourezk 28-00647/9

22 AUG 1978

Honorable James Abourezk
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Abourezk:

This is in response to your letter to the Attorney General of 7 April 1978 and your letter of 1 August 1978 to me concerning the assassination of Orlando Letelier.

As you know, the protection of citizens of the United States, permanent resident aliens and other persons in the United States is mainly the function of state and local police forces. Primary responsibility to monitor the activities of foreign intelligence services in the United States rests with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Central Intelligence Agency is specifically precluded by statute from exercising any police, law enforcement or internal security functions in the United States. Nevertheless, whenever the Agency becomes aware of an assassination plot, or the planning or commission of any other crime in the United States, it is required to and does make this known to the Attorney General in accordance with applicable executive orders.

The Agency has responded promptly and fully to many requests for information made by the Department of Justice in the Letelier case. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert Keuch, in his 6 July 1978 letter to you states:

"It is the opinion of the attorneys directly involved with the Grand Jury and the day-to-day investigation of this case both that the CIA has been extremely cooperative and helpful in pursuing this investigation and has provided us all the relevant information required and that there is absolutely no evidence to indicate that the CIA, or any other American intelligence agency, was negligent in exercising their responsibilities under the appropriate executive orders and regulations or that their actions or inactions in any way contributed to the failure to prevent the bombing death of Orlando Letelier. These views are shared by the individuals who are responsible for the general supervision of the investigation."